REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, and 11 remain in the application and have been amended hereby. Claims 3, 8, 9, and 12-17 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

The specification has been amended to include the missing drawing references pointed to in the Office Action at paragraphs 1 and 2. Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to define SXGA, GTF, UXGA, and NTSC as requested in the Office Action at paragraph 3. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 USC 102(a), as being anticipated by Sullivan et al.

Features of the electronic transmission apparatus (30-0 in Fig. 1) according to the present invention are a signal switching means (58 in Fig. 4) for selecting for output to a receiving electronic device (30-1 in Fig. 1) an encrypted signal (DGs in Fig. 4) transmitted by a transmitting electronic device (10 in Fig. 1) or a re-encrypted signal (DGu in Fig. 1) by an encryption means (55 in Fig. 4) in response to an authentication process (50b in Fig. 4). The authentication process verifies whether the receiving device is capable of recording a signal, for example.

An advantage of these features of the present invention is that a transmission signal delay in a multi-stage system, such as

the one shown in Fig. 3, is significantly reduced by eliminating the steps of decryption and re-encryption when the receiving device is authorized via an authentication process. See pages 17 and 18 of the present application, for example.

Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to recite these features of the present invention.

Looking at Sullivan et al. we see that there is no signal switching means for selecting for output to a receiving electronic device an encrypted signal transmitted by a transmitting electronic device or a re-encrypted signal in response to an authentication process. Sullivan et al. is merely showing, without disclosing any structure or advantages thereof, a dashed line (271 in Fig. 2) by-passing the decryption and encryption circuits (290 and 295 in Fig. 2). It is respectfully submitted that Sullivan et al. is silent about a switching means responding to an authentication means as recited in the amended claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 7, and the claims depending therefrom, are not anticipated by Sullivan et al.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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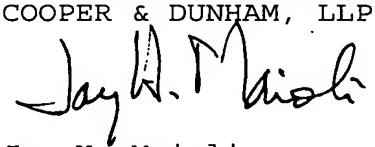

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